



Has God abandoned Us?

Revelation: a letter of hope to God's people in peril

Part X: The Enduring Pull of Hope

Guiding Principles

*We also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and **hope does not put us to shame.*** Romans 5:3-5

By your endurance you will gain your souls. Luke 21:19

God is always making things new.

- God will not stand for powers that work to destroy his children and his creation. A new heaven and a new earth is a repudiation of the evil that has infected it, not his creation which remains good.

God is coming to dwell with us.

- The Greek word is to "tent" which is the same word used in John's Gospel and alludes to the ancient tabernacle of God's presence

All are invited to live with God.

- The doors of heaven are always open, we just need to lay down those things that prevent us from entering.

Gathering. Open with this simple prayer from Revelation 22:20 ([or sing along to it here](#)):

- Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Listening. Watch or listen to the teaching.

Wondering. Spend some time in silence and consider the following.

- I wonder what you liked about the presentation.
- I wonder what challenged you about the presentation.
- I wonder what it means for God to make his home among mortals.
- I wonder what it means for the gates of the New Jerusalem to never shut.
- I wonder how hope can guide us while we are going through difficult times.

Sharing. Choose a question to share with the group or journal.

Praying. Practice the Examination of the Day together.

- For what today are you most grateful?
- For what today do you need healing?
- Where did you see Christ today?
- Where do you pray for Christ's presence today?

Commissioning. Take what you experienced today into your week.

- This week, I want to share an insight from the study of the Book of Revelation with someone.
- This week, I want to invite someone to church.
- This week, I want to do a self-examination and consider how I might still carry the effects of sin in my actions.
- This week, I want to practice seeing everyone as a Beloved Child of God to whom Jesus opens his arms in welcome.

